



BLOSSOMS of HOPE...
the Howard County Cherry Tree Project
NEWS RELEASE



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April 3, 2007

Blossoms of Hope Cherry Trees to begin annual color display

Tourism Initiative Will Have Visitors SEEING PINK this Spring in Howard County!

HOWARD COUNTY, MD—Visitors to Howard County, Maryland this spring will be “seeing pink” along the byways, in local parks and at some of Howard County’s main tourism attractions thanks to a growing initiative undertaken four years ago by the Howard County Office of Tourism in cooperation with state and local governments.

Look for the annual display of color to begin during the last two weeks in April as 1,000 beautiful **Blossoms of Hope** Kwanzan cherry trees begin to blossom across the county. Now in its fourth year, Blossoms of Hope...the Howard County Cherry Tree Project was designed to beautify tourism destinations in the county and create awareness for cancer.

“This is a unique venture within the tourism industry,” said Rachelina Bonacci, Executive Director of Howard County Tourism. “By enhancing our existing attractions with these beautiful cherry trees, we have given people yet another reason to spend time and money here in Howard County. We hope that as the trees grow and become recognized for their annual display of color, that our tourism partners begin “seeing green” as visitors to their attractions increase.”

In addition to enticing visitors, the tourism program is also giving back to the community through tree sponsorship opportunities that benefit the Claudia Mayer Cancer Resource Center at Howard County General Hospital. In February, the Office of Tourism hired Victoria Goodman as the new Executive Director of Blossoms of Hope to coordinate the next phase of the highly successful initiative.

“With 1,000 trees in the ground we are expecting the cherry tree project to begin to show its real colors over the next five years.” Goodman said. “We now have three types of sponsorship

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opportunities available, a signature event planned for the end of April to celebrate the blossoming of the trees and we'll be holding the second delivery of residential trees. Of course we will be making our annual contribution to The Claudia Mayer Cancer Resource Center when we recognize our 2006 sponsors as we dedicate their trees during the upcoming blossom season."

Ample viewing and sponsorship opportunities are available across the county for individuals who would like to enjoy the beauty of the trees and/or contribute to the program's beneficiary. Groves with trees for sponsorship are now located at 13 different locations across the county, including 3 new locations to be planted this spring. They are as follows:

- **East Columbia Library** (6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia)
- **Elkridge Library** (6540 Washington Blvd, Elkridge)
- **Glenwood Community Center** (2400 Route 97, Cooksville)
- **Howard County Center for the Arts** (8510 High Ridge Rd, Ellicott City)
- **Howard County Government Complex** (3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City)
- **Senator James Clark Memorial Grove**
(Howard County Living Heritage Farm Museum, 12985 Frederick Rd, West Friendship)
- **Mt. Ida Patriots' Grove*** (3691 Sarah's Lane, Ellicott City)
- **Savage Park** (8400 Fair Street, Savage)
- **Schooley Mill Park** (12975 Hall Shop Rd, Highland)
- **Western Regional Park** (14800 Carrs Mill Rd, Woodbine)

NEW FOR SPRING 2007

- **Cedar Lane Park** (5081 Cedar Lane, Columbia)
- **Meadow Brook Park** (5001 Meadow Brook Lane, Ellicott City)
- **Thomas Isaac Log Cabin and Heritage Orientation Center** (8398 Main Street, Ellicott City)

Visitors will also be "seeing pink" at the following locations in April thanks to corporate sponsors and partnerships with State and local government as well as the Columbia Association:

- Camberley Homes new Riverwood community
- Centennial Park
- Central Library
- Clark's Elioak Farms
- Columbia Village Centers
- Lake Elkhorn
- Lake Kittamaquandi
- Little Patuxent Parkway in Town Center
- Merriweather Post Pavilion
- Route 40 gateway from Route 70 E and various locations heading east on 40 to Rogers Ave.
- Route 100
- Route 70 W gateway into Howard County from Baltimore County
- Symphony Woods
- The Crab Shanty Restaurant
- The Inn at Peralynna Manor
- Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center
- Wilde Lake

For more information visitors can call the Howard County Office of Tourism 410-313-1900